E/2000/37
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

ANNUAL REPORT

(7 May 1999 - 5 May 2000)

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS, 2000

SUPPLEMENT N° 17

UNITED NATIONS

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NOTE

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Annual Report covering the period from 7 May 1999 to 5 May 2000

INTRODUCTION

1. The present Annual Report was adopted unanimously by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) at the sixth meeting of its fifty-fifth session on 5 May 2000.

CHAPTER I

ISSUES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

2. None.

CHAPTER II

WORK OF THE COMMISSION SINCE ITS FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION

A. Activities of subsidiary bodies

3. A list of meetings held since the fifty-fourth session is contained in Annex I, showing in each case the dates, the officers and the symbols of the report. These reports record the agreements reached and decisions taken.

B. Other activities

4. The secretariat serviced the regular session of the Commission, meetings of its subsidiary bodies, and other meetings held under its auspices. A list of the reports submitted to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission is given in Annex II. Periodic reviews, including the Economic Survey of Europe, and a series of specialized statistical bulletins, were published. The secretariat maintained close and regular liaison with United Nations Headquarters and cooperated with the Departments concerned, as well as with the secretariats of the other regional commissions on projects of common interest.

C. Relations with other United Nations Programmes

5. The cooperation of the Commission and its secretariat in 1999/2000 with various United Nations bodies and other international organizations, as well as with their secretariats, has continued as called for in the Plan of Action.

CHAPTER III

FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

A. Attendance and organization of work

6. The fifty-fifth session of the Commission was held from 3 to 5 May 2000. The Commission heard statements by the Chairman and the Executive Secretary.

7. The fifty-fifth session was attended by representatives from Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and United States of America.

8. The session was attended by representatives of the European Community.

9. Representatives of the Holy See participated under article 8 of the Commission's terms of reference.

10. Representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the following specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations were in attendance: International Labour Organization (ILO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Council of Europe, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

11. For discussion of the ECE cooperation with subregional groupings and initiatives, representatives of the Central European Initiative (CEI), Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Interstate Euro-Asian Coal and Metals Community (IEACMC) were in attendance.

12. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: International Council of Environmental Law; International Council of Women; World Federation of United Nations Associations; Zonta International.

13. A complete list of participants can be found in document E/ECE(55)/INF.1/Rev.1.

B. Agenda

14. The Commission adopted its agenda (E/ECE/1375/Rev.1) as revised by the session, which read as follows:

1. Adoption of the Agenda

2. Greater cohesion within the ECE region

(a) The economic regeneration of South East Europe

(b) Possibilities of increasing regional cooperation within the ECE region, taking into account the experience of the transition process

3. Operational activities: Re-thinking the strategy

4. Cross-sectoral and intersectoral concerns: Update on developments with the participation of the Chairpersons of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies

5. Contributing to global debates and events

6. Report on the work of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work

7. Election of Officers

8. Other business

9. Adoption of the report.

C. Election of Officers

15. The Chairman of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission was Mr. Harald Kreid (Austria) and the Vice-Chairmen Mr. Amiran Kavadze (Georgia), Mr. Miroslav Somol (Czech Republic) and Mr. Murat Sungar (Turkey)

16. Mr. Gordan Markotić (Croatia) was designated Rapporteur by the Bureau.

17. At its sixth meeting the Commission elected Mr. Harald Kreid (Austria) Chairman of the fifty-sixth session. Mr. Amiran Kavadze (Georgia) was re-elected Vice-Chairperson and Mrs. Spomenka Cek (Croatia) and Mr. David Peleg (Israel) were elected Vice-Chairpersons of the fifty-sixth session.

D. Account of proceedings

Greater cohesion within the ECE region
(Agenda item 2)

(a) The economic regeneration of South East Europe

18. As called for in the Plan of Action, the secretariat organized a debate on a major economic theme. This year the theme chosen was the economic regeneration of South East Europe. Opening the session, the Chairman shared his perception of the Commission's role. The Executive Secretary also made some introductory remarks linking the selected theme to that discussed at the Spring Seminar the previous day. The debate was divided into three sessions:

(i) Regenerating the economies of south eastern Europe: do we need a new approach to the transition process? (Session I): Mr. Ivo Bicanic (Professor, Faculty of Economics, University of Zagreb), Mr. Daniel Daianu (Professor, University of Bucharest and Minister of Finance (1997-1998)) and Mr. Hans Peter Lankes (Director of Transition Strategy, Office of the Chief Economist, EBRD) acted as discussion leaders.

(ii) Supporting the transition process in South East Europe (Session II):

(a) How should international financial and technical assistance be designed and organized, and what exactly should it support, to be really effective? Ms. Catherine Day (Deputy Director General, External Relations Directorate, European Commission, Brussels), Mr. Michael Landesmann (Research Director, Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW)) and Mr. Milivoje Panic (Selwyn College, Cambridge University) acted as discussion leaders.

(b) Can regional cooperation help to overcome some of the key problems? Mr. Vladimir Gligorov (Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW)), Mr. Thomas Price (Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Studies, Vienna) and Mr. Genc Ruli (Director, Albanian Institute for Contemporary Studies, Tirana) acted as discussion leaders.

(iii) Can strategies for economic policy and regional cooperation ignore the political context? If not, how should they adapt? (Session III) Mr. Ivan Krastev (Chairman of the Board, Centre for Liberal Strategies, Sofia), Mr. Bertrand Rioust de Largentaye (Ancien Chargé de Mission au Centre d'Analyse et de Prévision, Quai d'Orsay, Paris), Mr. Thanos Veremis (President of ELIAMEP (Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy, Athens) and Ms. Susan Woodward (Centre for Defence Studies, King's College, London) acted as discussion leaders.

19. As had been requested, the Chairman subsequently highlighted some of the main issues which had been addressed during the debate and informed delegations that a written version of his remarks would be made available to member countries.

(b) Possibilities of increasing regional cooperation within the ECE region, taking into account the experience of the transition process

20. On the basis of a consultant's paper, the debate addressed the issue of regional and subregional cooperation in the ECE region.

21. The Commission reaffirmed the value of coordination and cooperation among regional organizations. With regard to the ECE, OSCE and the Council of Europe, three actors in the region working on economic, social and security issues on a region-wide basis, it underlined the importance of their complementarity and existing division of labour. It encouraged further efforts to both intensify and enhance the scope of this collaboration.

22. The importance of the ECE and the EU partnership was stressed and the further strengthening of working relations, in particular with regard to the future development and application of norms and standards, important tools for European integration, was requested.

23. The Commission further confirmed the importance of subregional cooperation as a necessary step towards regional integration. It underlined the positive impact of subregional cooperation for economic growth, investment and trade, as well as peace and security.

24. The Commission encouraged an enhanced role of ECE in supporting subregional groupings and initiatives and noted that ECE could apply the experience gained from supporting existing initiatives/groupings to a new programme developed for the Caucasus subregion.

Operational activities: re-thinking the strategy
(Agenda item 3)

25. The Commission reviewed ECE's operational activities based on documents E/ECE/1376 and Corr.1 and E/ECE/1376/Add.1 on how the secretariat could focus and organise its operational activities according to a better defined strategy, as well as Conference Room Paper No. 2. on "Inter-regional Technical Cooperation Initiative in the Mediterranean Region: Three Initial Proposals for Joint Cooperation."

26. The Commission reaffirmed the importance of ECE's operational activities as a way to enhance the implementation of ECE conventions, protocols, norms and standards, promoting best practices and agreed policies and supporting European cooperation and integration and the transition process. It recognized that the Regional Advisers continue to play an important role in advising and helping the countries in transition apply ECE norms, standards and conventions.

27. The Commission agreed that priority should continue to be given to demands for assistance from the most vulnerable transition economies, particularly those from CIS and Balkan countries. It also agreed that the decisions on which operational activities are selected and given priority should take into account guidance from intergovernmental discussions and be based on actual ECE expertise, and reflecting on the recommendations of the external auditors. Finally, there was

general agreement that ways to strengthen the Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities should be explored in order to facilitate its work in terms of selection, prioritization and evaluation of its activities.

28. The secretariat was requested to conduct results oriented evaluations of operational projects in order to help it prioritize its work, where feasible. There was also general agreement for the need to develop inter-sectoral and multi-sectoral approaches to operational activities.

29. The Commission encouraged countries to include ECE on their lists of eligible institutions for the receipt of funding. At the same time, the secretariat was encouraged to renew its efforts to attract funds, both from public and private sources.

30. The Commission welcomed the secretariat's initiative with regard to developing joint projects with ECA and ESCWA for the Mediterranean region as well as with ESCAP. It requested the secretariat to pursue its discussions with ECA and ESCWA after holding consultations with member countries to determine the areas of cooperation with the other two regional commissions. Some countries specifically requested to be informed by the secretariat in detail and in advance concerning the secretariat's tentative proposals in this field.

Cross-sectoral and intersectoral concerns: Update on development with the participation of the Chairpersons of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies
(Agenda item 4)

31. The Commission considered this item on the basis of document E/ECE/1377.

32. The Commission supported the priority given to transport and environment by the Inland Transport Committee, the Committee on Environmental Policy and their respective Bureaux. It encouraged the Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment to actively pursue the overall monitoring and implementation of the Programme of Joint Action. Support was also expressed for the continuing work on transport, environment and health, energy and the environment, as well as by the Intergovernmental Task Force in preparing for CSD-9.

33. The Commission agreed with the suggestions by the PSB Chairpersons that it was necessary to initiate, on a regular basis, debates and possible action on cross-sectoral concerns and intersectoral issues, an example of which was mitigating the effects of CO2 emissions. The PSBs were requested to report back to the Commission on progress made in this respect.

34. The Commission supported ECE's involvement with the business community and generally agreed that this cooperation continue along the lines suggested in document E/ECE/1377. It was decided that the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (or a sub-committee thereof) take up the issues outlined in the paper and highlighted at the meeting, in particular the development of guidelines and the possible procedures for facilitating public/private partnership. The PSBs were requested to examine issues, such as the strengthening of SMEs involvement in ECE activities.

35. The secretariat was requested to provide regular information on the development of the participation of the business community in its different committees and working groups.

Contributing to global debates and events
(Agenda item 5)

36. The Commission reviewed ECE's contributions to global debates and events and strongly supported ECE's role as a regional arm of the United Nations called for in ECOSOC resolution 1998/46. It expressed its satisfaction with the ability of ECE to offer a region-wide forum on social and economic issues and to act as an interface between governments and NGOs.

37. The Commission expressed its full support for the conclusions agreed at the ECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 2000 Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, which constitutes the input of the ECE region to the global review process.

38. As a follow up to the International Year of Older Persons, the Commission decided to convene a ministerial conference on ageing under the aegis of ECE and accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Germany to host the conference in Berlin in September 2002. It further approved the preparatory process leading up to this conference as suggested in document E/ECE/1378. It also noted the willingness of the Government of Germany to make financial contributions to the preparatory process and urged other governments to support the process.

39. The Commission agreed that it would be necessary to look into the resource implications arising from ECE's contribution to global events and issues, including the possibility of strengthening the Office of the Executive Secretary. Taking into account the limited resources available to the ECE secretariat, the Commission agreed that any new mandate should be supported by the necessary additional budgetary resources coming from the body delivering the mandate.

Report on the work of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work
(Agenda item 6)

40. In introducing document E/ECE/1380, the Chairman of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work (GEPW) highlighted the work accomplished by the Group since the fifty-fourth session of the Commission and outlined some of its future tasks.

41. The Commission endorsed the recommendation contained in the document, namely: " In deciding that biennialization would not be in the best interests of the ECE at the present time, the Commission requests the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work to consider whether any improvements should be made to the format of the annual session of the Commission; any recommendations arising from such deliberations should be submitted to an Ad Hoc Informal Meeting of the Commission later in the year."

Other business
(Agenda item 8)

42. The Chairman announced that the tentative dates for the holding of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission in Geneva were the week of 30 April-4 May 2001, taking into account the need to avoid choosing dates which might conflict with those of other important meetings.

43. The Commission agreed with the proposal contained in Conference Room Paper 1 on "Challenges to the region: elements for an ECE response" that member countries and PSBs provide comments on the paper by 15 June and that a discussion on the paper be organized during the Ad Hoc Informal Meeting in June to decide on further steps to be taken.

Adoption of the Annual Report of the Commission
(Agenda item 9)

44. At its sixth meeting, on 5 May 2000, the Commission adopted its report covering the period from 7 May 1999 to 5 May 2000.

ANNEX I

LIST OF MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION'S SUBSIDIARY BODIES IN 1999/2000

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
THE COMMISSION			
Ad Hoc Informal Meeting of the Commission		9 July 1999	--
Chairperson:	Mr. M. Somol (Czech Republic)	18 October 1999	--
		16 December 1999	--
Chairperson:	Mr. H. Kreid (Austria)	4 February 2000	--
Regional Preparatory Meeting on the 2000 Review of Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action		19-21 January 2000	E/ECE/RW.2/2000/7
Chairperson:	Ms. P. Flor (Germany)		
Vice-Chairpersons:	Ms. R. Beridze (Georgia)		
	Ms. D. Pastizzi-Ferenčić (Croatia)		
	Ms. P. Schulz (Switzerland)		
	Ms. L. Tarr-Whelan (United States)		
Joint Meeting on Transport and the Environment		2nd session 6 July 1999	JMTE/1999/6
Co-Chairmen:	Mr. H. Courtois (Belgium)		
	Mr. U. Svidén (Sweden)		
Expert Meeting on Best Practice in Business Incubation		3-4 June 1999	OPA/AC.9/5
Chairman:	Ms. S. Baloh-Plahutnik (Slovenia)		
Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution			
Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution		Special session 1 June 1999	ECE/EB.AIR/64
Chairman:	Mr. J. Thompson (Norway)	17th session 29 November- 3 December 1999 Gothenburg (Sweden)	ECE/EB.AIR/68
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. J. Beale (United States)		
	Mr. L. Björkbom (Sweden)		
	Mr. K. Bull (United Kingdom)		
	Mr. R. Görgen (Germany)		
	Ms. K. Hillman (Canada)		
	Mr. L. Lindau (Sweden)		
	Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom)		
	Mr. J. Zurek (Poland)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Steering Body to the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)	23rd session 6-8 September 1999	EB.AIR/GE.1/1999/2
Chairman: Mr. M. Williams (United Kingdom)		
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. H. Hojesky (Austria)		
Ms. M. Lesnjak (Slovenia)		
Mr. R. Van Aalst (Netherlands)		
Ms. S. Vidic (Croatia)		
Mr. P. Grennfelt (Sweden)		
Working Group on Effects	18th session 25-27 August 1999	EB.AIR/WG.1/1999/2
Chairman: Mr. K. Bull (United Kingdom)		
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. B. Achermann (Switzerland)		
Mr. V.N. Bashkin (Russian Federation)		
Mr. G. Fenech (Canada)		
Mr. R. Guardans (Spain)		
Mr. T. Johannessen (Norway)		
Working Group on Strategies	30th session 31 May-4 June 1999	EB.AIR/WG.5/62
Chairman: Mr. L. Björkbom (Sweden)		
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. R. Ballaman (Switzerland)	31st session	EB.AIR/WG.5/64
Mr. W. Harnett (United States)	26 August-	
Mr. D. Hrcek (Slovenia)	3 September 1999	
Mr. V. Sokolovsky (Russian Federation)		
Working Group on Abatement Techniques	7th session 1-2 July 1999	EB.AIR/WG.6/1999/2
Chairman: Mr. L. Lindau (Sweden)		
Vice-Chairman: Mr. M. Venanzi (Italy)		
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes		
Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes	2nd meeting 23-25 March 2000 The Hague (Netherlands)	ECE/MP.WAT/2000/5
Chairman: Mrs. L. Kauppi (Finland)		
Vice-Chairmen: Mrs. L. Mara (Romania)		
Mr. G. Verwolf (Netherlands)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Working Group on Water Management **Chairman:** Mr. B. Warnat (Germany) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. G. Hollo (Hungary)	2nd session 15 September 1999 Bonn (Germany)	MP.WAT/WG.1/1999/2
Seminar on the Prevention of Chemical Accidents and Limitation of Their Impact on Transboundary Waters **Chairman:** Mr. R. Holländer (Germany)	4-6 October 1999 Hamburg (Germany)	MP.WAT/SEM.1/1999/3 CEP/WG.4/SEM.1/1999/3
Seminar on Flood Prevention and Protection **Chairman:** Mr. O. Malek (Germany)	7-8 October 1999 Berlin (Germany)	MP.WAT/SEM.2/1999/3
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context		
Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment **Chairman:** Mr. A. McGlone (United Kingdom) **Vice-Chairman:** Ms. A. Radnai (Hungary)	1st meeting 4-5 October 1999	MP.EIA/WG.1/1999/2
ENVIRONMENT		
Committee on Environmental Policy **Chairman:** Mr. U. Svidén (Sweden) **Vice-Chairmen:** Mr. C. Clini (Italy) Mr. S. Kuraev (Russian Federation) Mr. H. Liiv (Estonia) Mr. Y. Movchan (Ukraine) Mr. B. Muehling (United States) Mr. M. Slokar (Slovenia) Mrs. S. Velisek (Switzerland)	6th session 20-24 September 1999	ECE/CEP/69
Seminar on the Prevention of Chemical Accidents and Limitation of Their Impact on Transboundary Waters **Chairman:** Mr. R. Holländer (Germany)	4-6 October 1999 Hamburg (Germany)	CEP/WG.4/SEM.1/1999/3 MP.WAT/SEM.1/1999/3
TRANSPORT		
Inland Transport Committee **Chairman:** Mr. H. Courtois (Belgium) **Vice-Chairman:** Mrs. V. Tanase (Romania)	62nd session 15-17 February 2000	ECE/TRANS/133 and Add.1

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Ad Hoc Working Group for the Elaboration of a Draft European Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterway		10th session 30 August- 2 September 1999	TRANS/AC.6/20
Chairman:	Mr. R.J. van Dijk (Netherlands)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. G. Kafka (Austria)		
Working Party on Road Traffic Safety		33rd session 28 September - 1 October 1999	TRANS/WP.1/67
Chairman:	Mr. J. Busstra (Netherlands)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. D. Link (Israel)		
	Mr. I. Yakimov (Russian Federation)		
Chairman:	Mr. B. Perisset (Switzerland)	34th session 4-7 April 2000	TRANS/WP.1/69
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. D. Link (Israel)		
	Mr. I. Yakimov (Russian Federation)		
Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics		12th session 6-8 September 1999	TRANS/WP.5/26
Chairman:	Mr. W. Dörries (Germany)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. V. Arsenov (Russian Federation)		
Working Party on Transport Statistics		50th session 17-19 November 1999	TRANS/WP.6/137
Chairman:	Mr. E. Grib (Denmark)		
Working Party on the Transport of Perishable Foodstuffs		55th session 1-4 November 1999	TRANS/WP.11/200
Chairman:	Mr. M. Eilsoe (Denmark)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. V. Tkatchev (Russian Federation)		
Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods		67th session 8-12 November 1999	TRANS/WP.15/159
Chairman:	Mr. J. Franco (Portugal)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs. A. Roumier (France)		
Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods		25-28 May 1999	TRANS/WP.15/ AC.1/76
Chairman:	Mr. A. Johansen (Norway)	14-24 September 1999	TRANS/WP.15/ AC.1/78
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. H. Rein (Germany)		
		13-24 March 2000	TRANS/WP.15/ AC.1/80

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Meeting of Experts on the European Provisions concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterway (ADN)	3rd session 17-21 January 2000	TRANS/WP.15/AC.2/7
Chairman: Mr. K. Ridder (Germany) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. G. Kafka (Austria)		
Working Party on Combined Transport	32nd session 6-8 September 1999	TRANS/WP.24/85
Chairman: Mr. H. Maillard (Belgium)	33rd session 10-11 April 2000	TRANS/WP.24/87
Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles	118th session 22-25 June 1999	TRANS/WP.29/680
Chairman: Mr. V. Koutenev (Russian Federation) **Vice-Chairmen:** Mr. B. Gauvin (France)	119th session 9-12 November 1999	TRANS/WP.29/689
World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)	120th session 7-10 March 2000	TRANS/WP.29/703
Chairman: Mr. V. Koutenev (Russian Federation) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. B. Gauvin (France)		
Working Party on Noise	31st session 16-17 September 1999	TRANS/WP.29/ GRB/29
Chairman: Mr. H. Löffelholz (Germany)	32nd session 22-25 February 2000	TRANS/WP.29/ GRB/30
Working Party on Lighting and Light-signalling	43rd session 4-8 October 1999	TRANS/WP.29/ GRE/43
Chairman: Mr. G. Meekel (Netherlands)	44th session 3-6 April 2000	TRANS/WP.29/ GRE/44
Working Party on Pollution and Energy	38th session 25-28 May 1999	TRANS/WP.29/ GRPE/38
Chairman: Mr. B. Gauvin (France)	39th session 11-14 January 2000	TRANS/WP.29/ GRPE/39

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Working Party on Brakes and Running Gear		46th session 13-15 September 1999	TRANS/WP.29/ GRRF/46
Chairman:	Mr. M. Fendick (United Kingdom)	47th session 31 January- 4 February 2000	TRANS/WP.29/ GRRF/47
Working Party on General Safety Provisions		77th session 25-28 October 1999	TRANS/WP.29/ GRSG/56
Chairman:	Mr. J. Martin (Luxembourg)	78th session 10-14 April 2000	TRANS/WP.29/ GRSG/57
Working Party on Passive Safety		26th session 29 November-	TRANS/WP.29/ GRSP/26
Chairman:	Mr. C. Lomonaco (Italy)	2 December 1999	
Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport		93rd session 18-22 October 1999	TRANS/WP.30/186
Chairman: **Vice-Chairman:**	Mr . F. Paroissin (France)	94th session 21-25 February 2000	TRANS/WP.30/188
Administrative Committee for the TIR Convention 1975		27th session 21-22 October 1999	TRANS/WP.30/ AC.2/55
Chairman: **Vice-Chairman:**	Mr. M. Amelio (Italy) Mr. I. Parts (Estonia)	28th session 24-25 February 2000	TRANS/WP.30/ AC.2/57
Working Party on Road Transport		93rd session 19-21 October 1999	TRANS/SC.1/365
Chairman: **Vice-Chairman:**	Mr. J. Alaluusua (Finland) Mr. A. Pinson (Russian Federation)		
Ad Hoc Meeting on Implementation of the European Agreement on Main International Traffic Arteries (AGR)		17th meeting 28-29 June 1999	TRANS/SC.1/AC.5/34
Chairman:	Mr. M. Rolla (Poland)		
Working Party on Rail Transport		53rd session 6-8 October 1999	TRANS/SC.2/192
Chairman: **Vice-Chairman:**	Mr. E. Kosteas (Greece) Mr. G. Szabó (Hungary)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Working Party on Inland Water Transport		43rd session 25-27 October 1999	TRANS/SC.3/151
Chairman:	Mr. C. Hofhuizen (Netherlands)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. I. Valkar (Hungary)		
Drafting Committee Established Jointly by CCNR, the Danube Commission and ECE to finalize the text of the Convention on the Contract for the Carriage of Goods by Inland Waterway		29 June-1 July 1999	TRANS/SC.3/AC.5/10
Chairman:	Mr. S. Segura (France)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. A. Gruenfeld (Slovenia)		
Working Party on the Standardization of Technical and Safety Requirements in Inland Navigation		18th session 9-11 June 1999	TRANS/SC.3/ WP.3/36
Chairman:	Mr. H. Van Doorn (Netherlands)		
Chairman:	Mr. D. Anisin (Russian Federation)	19th session 17-19 April 2000	TRANS/SC.3/ WP.3/39
	STATISTICS		
Conference of European Statisticians		47th plenary session 14-16 June 1999 Neuchâtel (Switzerland)	ECE/CES/56 + CES/1999/30 & Adds.1-6
Chairman:	Mr. P. Garonna (Italy)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. A. Abrahamse (Netherlands) Mr. S. Longva (Norway) Mr. D. Murphy (Ireland) Mr. E. Outrata (Czech Republic) Mr. R. Veetousme (Estonia)		
Joint ECE/ILO Meeting on Consumer Price Indices		3-5 November 1999	CES/AC.49/1999/2
Chairman:	Mr. D. Fenwick (United Kingdom)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. J. Greenlees (United States)		
Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD/FAO Meeting on Food and Agricultural Statistics in Europe		23-23 June 1999	CES/AC.61/1999/2
Chairman:	Mr. P. Helm (United Kingdom)		
Vice-Chairman:	Ms. M.L. Widén (Sweden)		
Joint ECE/Eurostat/OECD Meeting on National Accounts		26-28 April 2000	CES/AC.68/2000/2
Chairman:	Mr. S. Penneck (United Kingdom)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Joint ECE/Eurostat/ILO Seminar on Measurement of the Quality of Employment	3-5 May 2000	CES/SEM.41/2
Chairman: Ms. B. Buhmann (Switzerland)		
TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT		
Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development	3rd session 7-10 June 1999	ECE/TRADE/231
Chairman: Mr. M. Vilchez-Barros (Spain) **Vice-Chairmen:** Mr. Y. Beletsky (Russian Federation) Mr. G. Feher (Hungary)		
Centre for the Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT)	6th session 27-30 March 2000	TRADE/CEFACT/ 2000/32
Chairman: Mr. H. Martre (France) **Vice-Chairmen:** Mr. R. Walker (United Kingdom) Mr. K. Itoh (Japan) Mr. S. Mila (IAPH) Mr. R. Colcher (Brazil) Ms. T. Sorrenti (United States)		
Working Party on International Legal and Commercial Practice	48th session 29 November- 1 December 1999	TRADE/WP.5/1999/13
Chairman: Mr. D. Winter (United Kingdom) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. D. Colodeiciuc (Romania)	Brno (Czech Republic)	
Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies	9th session 17-19 May 1999	TRADE/WP.6/1999/18
Chairman: Mr. C. Arvius (Sweden) **Vice-Chairmen:** Ms. M. Saunders (United States) Mr. V. Koreshkov (Belarus)		
Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development	55th session 3-5 November 1999	TRADE/WP.7/ 1999/7
Chairman: Mr. M. Vilchez-Barros (Spain) **Vice-Chairmen:** Mr. D.L. Priester (United States) Mrs. O. Vorovenci (Romania)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Meeting of Specialized Section on Coordination of Standardization of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	45th session 25-29 October 1999	TRADE/WP.7/GE.1/ 1999/15
Chairman: Mr. D.L. Priester (United States) **Vice-Chairman:** Ms. U. Bickelmann (Germany)		
Meeting of Specialized Section on Standardization of Dry and Dried Produce (Fruit)	46th session 7-10 June 1999	TRADE/WP.7/GE.2/ 1999/12
Chairman: Mr. W. Staub (Germany) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. M. Sciannella (Italy)		
Meeting of Specialized Section on Standardization of Seed Potatoes	30th session 31 January- 3 February 2000	TRADE/WP.7/GE.6/ 2000/8
Chairman: Mr. B. Borrel (Canada) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. P.G. Bianchi (Italy)		
Meeting of Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat (Porcine, Bovine, Poultry)	8th session 11-12 May 1999	TRADE/WP.7/GE.11/ 1999/5
Chairman: Mr. B. Carpenter (United States) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. P. Hardwick (United Kingdom)	9th session 27-29 March 2000	TRADE/WP.7/GE.11/ 2000/7
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Chemical Industry	3rd session 26-28 April 2000	TRADE/CHEM/GE.1/ 2000/7
Chairman: Ms. J. Ory (France) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. W. Werblinski (Poland)		
Ad Hoc Meeting for the Pilot Project demonstrating the Environmental Clean-up of Selected Sites Polluted by Chemicals	7th meeting 26 April 2000	TRADE/CHEM/ AC.1/9
Chairman: Mr. V. Mejstrik (Czech Republic)		
Preparatory Meeting for the Seminar on Analysis, Methodology of Treatment and Remediation of Polluted Soils and Groundwaters	27 April 2000	TRADE/CHEM/ SEM.2/1
Chairman: Mr. V. Limousin (France)		
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Steel	3rd session 28-29 March 2000	TRADE/STEEL/ GE.1/2000/6
Chairman: Mr. J.L. Montagut (France) **Vice-Chairman:** Mr. V. Łaszczyk (Poland)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Ad Hoc Meeting on the Steel Market		5th meeting 27 March 2000	TRADE/STEEL/2000/ AC.1/2
Chairman:	Mr. P. Tardy (Hungary)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. S. Vermeij (Netherlands)		
Workshop on Radioactive Contaminated Metallurgical Scrap		26-28 May 1999 Prague (Czech Republic)	TRADE/STEEL/ SEM.2/AC/7
Chairman:	Mr. J. Raab (Czech Republic)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. S. Kondratov (Ukraine)		
	ENERGY		
Committee on Sustainable Energy		9th session 9-11 November 1999	ECE/ENERGY/41
Chairman:	Mr. H.Ch. Blanc (France)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. B. Zluwa (Austria)		
	Mr. S.R. Brunborg (Norway)		
	Mr. B. Varnavskiy (Russian Federation)		
	Ms. E. Aybar (Turkey)		
	Mr. M. Greenbaum (United States)		
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal and Thermal Power		2nd session 8-9 November 1999	ENERGY/GE.1/ 1999/3
Chairman:	Mr. M. Greenbaum (United States)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. N. Liciu (Romania)		
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Extension of European Electricity Interconnections		2nd session 12 November 1999	ENERGY/GE.2/ 1999/2
Chairman:	Mr. H.Ch. Blanc (France)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. I. Smirnov (Russian Federation)		
Working Party on Gas		10th session 26-28 January 2000	ENERGY/WP.3/ 2000/2
Chairman:	Mr. B. Rey (Poland)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. N. Coupaye (France)		
	Mr. C. Simeoni (Italy)		
Meeting of Experts on Natural Gas Resources		22nd session 14-15 June 1999	ENERGY/WP.3/ GE.1/1999/2
Chairman:	Mr. M. Kosinowski (Germany)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mr. V. Skorobogatov (Russian Federation)		

Body and officers		Session	Symbol of report
Ad Hoc Group of Experts on the Supply and Use of Gas		1st session 25 January 2000	ENERGY/WP.3/ GE.5/2000/2
Chairman:	Mr. A. Zedelj (Croatia)		
Vice-Chairman:	Mrs. M.T. Sao Pedro (Portugal)		
Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project		10th session 31 May-2 June1999	ENERGY/WP.4/ 1999/2
Chairman:	Mr. R. Bowes (United States)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. T. Dahlsveen (Norway) Mr. Z. Genchev (Bulgaria) Mrs. M. Persutto (Italy) Mr. V. Shakhin (Russian Federation)		
Ad Hoc Meeting on Energy Efficiency Investment Project Development for Climate Change Mitigation		13-14 January 2000	ENERGY/WP.4/2000/2
Chairman:	Mr. R. Bowes (United States)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. T. Dahlsveen (Norway) Mr. Z. Genchev (Bulgaria) Mrs. M. Persutto (Italy) Mr. V. Shakhin (Russian Federation)		
	TIMBER		
Timber Committee		57th session 27-30 September 1999	ECE/TIM/93
Chairman:	Ms. A. Bergquist (Sweden)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. J. Serveau (Canada) Mr. N.A. Burdin (Russian Federation)		
Steering Committee of the Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training		14th session 17-18 September 1999 Bordeaux (France)	TIM/EFC/WP.1/ AC.1/1999/2
Chairman:	Mr. H. Höfle (Germany)		
Vice-Chairmen:	Mr. V. Korobov (Russian Federation) Mr. D. McAree (Ireland)		
Seminar on "Forest Operations of Tomorrow"		20-24 September 1999 Pessac (France)	TIM/EFC/WP.1/ SEM.48/2
Chairman:	Mr. R. Davezac (France)		

Body and officers	Session	Symbol of report
Joint FAO/ECE Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics	22nd session 26-28 May 1999	TIM/EFC/WP.2/ 1999/9

Chairman: Mr. H. Ollmann (Germany)
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. D. Brooks (United States)
Mr. R. Michalak (Poland)

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Committee on Human Settlements	60th session 13-15 September 1999	ECE/HBP/114

Chairman: Mr. J. Zetter (United Kingdom)
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. W. Förster (Austria)
Mr. A. Nichkasov (Belarus)
Mr. B. Emmerich (Netherlands)
Mr. N.V. Maslov (Russian Federation)
Ms. B. Lipej (Slovenia)
Ms. A. Sayin (Turkey)

Working Party on Land Administration	1st session 15-16 November 2000	HBP/WP.7/1999/2

Chairman: Mr. H. Onsrud (Norway)
Vice-Chairman: Ms. B. Lipej (Slovenia)

ANNEX II

PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION

A. LIST OF MAJOR ECE STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS, 1999/2000

NOTE: The language versions issued are indicated by the following abbreviations: E, English; F, French; R, Russian; E/F, bilingual (English/French); E/F/R, trilingual (English/French/Russian).

GENERAL

Annual Report of the ECE to ECOSOC, 24 April 1998 - 6 May 1999 Supplement No. 17 (E/1999/37-E/ECE/1374)	E F R
Economic Survey of Europe, 1999 No. 1 (Sales No. 99.II.E.2)	E F R
Economic Survey of Europe, 1999 No. 2 (Sales No. 99.II.E.3)	E F R
Economic Survey of Europe, 1999 No. 3 (Sales No. 99.II.E.4)	E F R
Socio-Economic Status and Living Arrangements of Older Persons in Finland (Sales No. 99.II.E.19)	E
Population in Europe and North America on the Eve of the Millennium: Dynamics and Policy Responses - Regional Population Meeting, Budapest, Hungary, 7-9 December 1998 (Sales No. 99.II.E.16)	E
Conclusions - Regional Population Meeting, Budapest, Hungary, 7-9 December 1998 (Sales No. 99.II.E.15)	E
Economic Studies Series	
No. 10 k- Fertility and Family Surveys in Countries of the ECE Region: Standard Country Report - Canada (Sales No. 99.II.E.11)	E
No. 10 l- Fertility and Family Surveys in Countries of the ECE Region: Standard Country Report - Belgium (Sales No. 99.II.E.17)	E
No. 12 - In-Depth Studies on Migration in Central and Eastern Europe: The Case of Ukraine (Sales No. 99.II.E.5)	E

ENVIRONMENT

Air Pollution Studies No. 14: Effects of Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (ECE/EB.AIR/62) (Sales No. 99.E.II.1)	E
Strategies and Policies for Air Pollution Abatement (ECE/EB.AIR/65) (Sales No. 99.II.E.14)	E
1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its 1998 Protocols on Persistent Organic Pollutants and Heavy Metals (ECE/EB.AIR/66) (Sales No. 99.II.E.21)	E
Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (MP.WAT/2000/1)	E F R
Rules of Procedure of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/3) (Sales No. 99.II.E.25)	E/F/R
Environmental Performance Reviews Series	
No. 6 - Ukraine (Sales No. 00.II.E.1)	E
No. 7 - Croatia (Sales No. 99.II.E.37)	E

TRANSPORT

Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Model Regulations (11th revised edition) (ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.11) (Sales No. 99.VIII.1) (also available in Arabic, Chinese and Spanish)	E F R
Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, Manual of Tests and Criteria (3rd revised edition) (ST/SG/AC.10/11/Rev.3) (Sales No. 99.VIII.2)	E F R
Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under Cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention), Amendment 19 revised (ECE/TRANS/17/Amend.19/Rev.1)	E/F/R
Inventory of Main Standards and Parameters of the Waterway Network ("Blue Book") Addendum 1 (TRANS/SC.3/144/Add.1)	E F R
Map of European Inland Waterways (Sales No. 98.II.E.8)	E/F/R
Reception Facilities for the Transfer of Waste Generated on Board Ships on European Inland Waterways (TRANS/SC.3/150) (Sales No. 99.II.E.33)	E F R

Periodic Bulletins

Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe and North America, 1998, Vol. XLVIII (Sales No. 99.II.E.12)	E/F/R
Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe and North America, 1999, Vol. XLIV (Sales No. 99.II.E.22)	E/F/R

STATISTICS

Statistical Standards and Studies No. 50: International Comparison of Gross Domestic Product in Europe 1996 (Sales No. 99.II.E.13)	E R
Statistical Standards and Studies No. 51: Information Systems Architecture for National and International Statistical Offices - Guidelines and Recommendations (Sales No. 99.II.E.24)	E R
World Robotics 1999 - Statistics, Market Analysis, Forecasts, Case Studies and Profitability of Robot Investment (Sales No. GV.E.99.0.24)	E

TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Competitiveness and Best Practices in Developing Engineering Plastics Applications (ECE/TRADE/229)	E R
Trade Finance in Transition Economies: Practical Ways to Support Exports and Imports, Summary of Workshop Proceedings (ECE/TRADE/235) (Sales No. E.99.0.5)	E
Compendium of Soil Clean-up Technologies and Soil Remediation Companies, 2nd edition, 2000 (ECE/TRADE/234) (Sales No. GV.E.00.0.7)	E
Directory of Chemicals and Suppliers in Europe 2000 (3 vol.) (ECE/TRADE/236) (Sales No. GV.E.00.0.1)	E
ECE Steel Series 1999: Iron and Steel Scrap (ECE/TRADE/238) (Sales No. 99.II.E.23)	E
Promoting and Sustaining Business Incubators for the Development of SMEs (OPA/AC.9/4)	E
Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in Countries in Transition in 1996-1997; Definitions, Government Policy, Legislation, Statistics (Third Edition) (OPA/AC.12/1)	E R

A Way Ahead - Proposals for Support Measures by Governments, Regional and Local Authorities and Financial Institutions to Promote Women Entrepreneurship in CEI Countries (OPA/AC.14/1)	E

Periodic Bulletins

The Chemical Industry in 1998, Annual Review : Production and Trade Statistics 1995-1997 (ECE/TRADE/228) (Sales No. 98.II.E.9)	E
Annual Bulletin of Steel Statistics for Europe, America and Asia, 1995-1998, Vol. XXV (ECE/TRADE/233) (Sales No. 99.II.E.32)	E/F/R
Statistics of World Trade in Steel, 1998 (ECE/TRADE/239) (Sales No. 99.II.E.35)	E/F/R
The Steel Market in 1998 and Prospects for 1999 (ECE/TRADE/232) (Sales No. 99.II.E.24)	E

ENERGY

Study on Underground Gas Storage in Europe and Central Asia (Sales No. GV.E.99.0.27)	E
ECE Gas Centre Series No. 10: Reform and Restructuring of the Gas Industry in Economies in Transition 1998 (Sales No. GV.E.99.0.17)	E

TIMBER

Timber and Forest Information Series: Timber Committee Yearbook 1999 (ECE/TIM/INF/6)	E F R

Geneva Timber and Forest Study Papers

No.16: State of European Forests and Forestry 1999 (ECE/TIM/SP/16) (Sales No. 99.II.E.30)	E F

UN-ECE/FAO Timber and Forest Discussion Papers

No. 13: The Role of Women and Forest Properties in Haute-Savoie: Initial Researches (ECE/TIM/DP/13)	E
No. 14: The Status of Forest Certification in the ECE Region (ECE/TIM/DP/14)	E
No. 15: Recycling, Energy and Market Interactions (ECE/TIM/DP/15)	E

No. 16. A Summary of "The Competitive Climate for Wood Products and Paper Packaging: The Factors Causing Substitution with Emphasis on Environmental Promotions (ECE/TIM/DP/16)	E
No. 17: Forest Certification Update for the ECE Region (ECE/TIM/DP/17)	E

Periodic Bulletins

Timber Bulletin, Vol. LII (1999)

No.1: Forest Products Prices 1995-1998 (ECE/TIM/BULL/52/1)	E/F
No.2: Forest Products Statistics, 1994-1998 (ECE/TIM/BULL/52/2)	E/F
No.3: Forest Products Annual Market Review, 1998-1999 (ECE/TIM/BULL/52/3)	E F R
No.6: Forest Products Markets in 1999 and Prospects for 2000 (ECE/TIM/BULL/52/6)	E/F R

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Country Profiles on the Housing Sector - Slovakia (ECE/HBP/111) (Sales No. 99.II.E.20)	E
Implementation of Human Settlements Policies on Urban Renewal and Housing Modernization, Bratislava Case Study (ECE/HBP/112) (Sales No. 99.II.E.26)	E

B. LIST OF DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION

Provisional agenda	E/ECE/1375/Rev.1
ECE operational activities - Re-thinking the strategy	E/ECE/1376 Add.1 and Corr.1
Intersectoral activities and cross-sectoral concerns, in particular the involvement of the business community in ECE activities	E/ECE/1377
Contributing to global debates and events	E/ECE/1378
The work of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work	E/ECE/1380

Reports of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies of the Commission

Committee on Environmental Policy	ECE/CEP/69
Inland Transport Committee	ECE/TRANS/133 + Add.1
Conference of European Statisticians	ECE/CES/56 CES/1999/ + Adds 1-6
Committee on Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development	ECE/TRADE/231
Committee on Sustainable Energy	ECE/ENERGY/41
Timber Committee	ECE/TIM/93
Committee on Human Settlements	ECE/HBP/114

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